

Observations on the marine carnivore gastropods feeding on moribund Puffer Fish *Takifugu oblongus* Bloch 1786

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Marine gastropod scavengers belonging to the family Nassariidae feed on ephemeral carrion (Britton and Morton, 1994). The feeding behaviour and ecology of *Nassarius* scavengers is well studied in Hong Kong and Western Australia (Morton and Yuen 2000, Morton and Britton 2002, 2003).

Nassarius dorsatus commonly seen on the muddy sand flats of eastern Indian Ocean feeds on decapod crustaceans, moribund bivalves, starfish and fish behaving more like a predator in such situations (Morton 1990, Britton and Morton 1992, Morton and Britton 2003).

Certain marine carnivore gastropods belong to family Columbellidae feed on other molluscs, polychaete worms, crustaceans and ascidians (Beechey 2007). *Mitrella scripta* widespread in the indo-pacific waters mainly feeds on gastropods and their eggs (Taylor 1987).

On October 16, 2012 (07:30 hours) at the sub-tidal zone near GSFC Jetty, Sikka (22°27' 17.90" N, 79°49' 31.82" E), Dist. Jamnagar, Gujarat, India, we observed feeding of three *Nassarius dorsatus* Röding, 1798 and one *Mitrella scripta* Linnaeus, 1758 on moribund *Takifugu oblongus* (20 cm TL). (Fig.1).

The time of sighting coincided with low tide, and the tidal zone was exposed. Both the gastropod species were actively feeding with siphon as big as its body size. This is the first documented record of *N. dorsatus* and *M. scripta* feeding on moribund puffer fish.

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Figure 1. Feeding of *N. dorsatus* and *M. scripta* on *Takifugu oblongus*

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